

**From:** [Young, Jane](#)  
**To:** [Schmidt, Kim](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Body Cameras  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 9:01:06 AM

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**From:** Andrew Shagoury <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:57 PM  
**To:** 'Charlie Dennis' <[REDACTED]>; Chief Pat Sullivan  
<[REDACTED]>; Chief Mark Chase  
<[REDACTED]>; MacDonald, Gordon  
<[REDACTED]>; Young, Jane <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Body Cameras

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I read indepth coverage of the meeting today (8/25). I saw body cameras may be discussed on 8/26.

This is one of the most scientific studies of body worn camera use with police in America. It showed no impact on complaints or officer behaviors.

[https://bwc.thelab.dc.gov/TheLabDC\\_MPD\\_BWC\\_Working\\_Paper\\_10.20.17.pdf](https://bwc.thelab.dc.gov/TheLabDC_MPD_BWC_Working_Paper_10.20.17.pdf)

I attended their presentation at the IACP conference.

"The conclusion:

We measured the average effects of BWCs on documented uses of force and civilian complaints, as well as a variety of additional policing activities and judicial outcomes. Our sample size was unusually large, enhancing our ability to detect changes should they exist. In addition, our comparison groups were constructed from an individual level officer randomization scheme, which avoids several problems of inference present in other methodologies used to date.

We are unable to detect any statistically significant effects. As such, our **experiment suggests that we should recalibrate our expectations of BWCs**. Law enforcement agencies (particularly in contexts similar to Washington, DC) that are considering adopting BWCs should not expect dramatic reductions in use of force or complaints, or other large-scale shifts in police behavior, solely from the deployment of this technology. We would also temper expectations about (and suggest further research into) the evidentiary value of BWCs. The administrative court data we had access to has certain limitations, but preliminary analyses do not uncover any clear benefits. Body-worn cameras may have great utility in specific policing scenarios, but we cannot conclude from this experiment that they can be expected to produce large, department-wide improvements in outcomes."

I looked into BWCs. I decided not to pursue it. The cost to purchase was not the issue; they are affordable to buy. Yes I had concerns about the cost for data storage which is more than

buying them but that was not the budget buster. The biggest problem I saw was time to administer the program. Depending upon the restrictions on recording in the law and distribution due to 91-A requests, the cost of time would be a major problem. If we copy a video it may need real time redaction. If there is a glitch, someone has to call support and work with them to get it back up and running. We recently had to spend quite a bit of time working with support for our cruiser videos.

A major concern I have with the commission process is it has only listened to large departments: NHSP, Manchester, Portsmouth, and Nashua. It was troubling to hear an large department city police commissioner criticize boards of selectmen. She had no expertise to make such an assessment on their ability to deal with police misconduct. It was ironic too as one of the worst cases was missed by their own police commission until the newspaper starting reporting on it. In a small town the Selectmen may know every officer and their families. I doubt any police commissioner in Portsmouth knows all the officers. Last I knew, around half of the agencies in the state had under 10 sworn full-time personnel. I searched the CALEA website and only found a few that size were accredited.

Here is a recent Police1 article on differences with deescalation and rural and urban police.

**"Why de-escalation is a rural cop's lifeline"**

[https://www.police1.com/rural-law-enforcement/articles/why-de-escalation-is-a-rural-cops-lifeline-zt8vZQEItc0Ac8sA/?fbclid=IwAR3l0kCEgPPmx0PU14uSOKEybtaBQaa6JWGliOr56BzF4d0LXHxiRRnG\\_z0](https://www.police1.com/rural-law-enforcement/articles/why-de-escalation-is-a-rural-cops-lifeline-zt8vZQEItc0Ac8sA/?fbclid=IwAR3l0kCEgPPmx0PU14uSOKEybtaBQaa6JWGliOr56BzF4d0LXHxiRRnG_z0)

Some of the proposals could have long ongoing personnel costs which may adversely impact smaller agencies. A large agency adding an employee or two to administer programs is a small impact to their overall budget. A smaller agency adding one to do body cameras, accreditation, community outreach etc is a significant impact to their budget.

Today it was mentioned that the Attorney General's office does not have enough people to do public integrity cases and we know the Law Enforcement Manual and Domestic Violence Protocols need updating. It is the same for many police agencies in the state. Adding more new tasks means will mean adding officers (which is difficult today), cutting other services/programs, or diverting time to other more pressing issues.

Thank you for time on the commission. I know it has been quite consuming. It is difficult to follow along if you are not there.